United Nations PBC/4/CAF/L.1

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: Limited
17 December 2009

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Fourth session
Central African Republic configuration

Draft conclusions and recommendations of the first biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic

The Peacebuilding Commission,

General considerations

1. *Welcomes* the first biannual summary report presented by all stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of their commitments made in the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic 2009-2011, and expresses its appreciation for the contributions made by the national parties to the preparation of its report;

2. *Draws attention* to its first biannual summary implementation report, which is accompanied by the updated mapping of resources and gaps in the Central African Republic prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the Strategic Framework, which serves as a strategic road map for peacebuilding in the three priority areas on which the Peacebuilding Commission and the Central African Government have jointly decided to focus their joint attention, namely (a) security sector reform (including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration); (b) good governance and the rule of law; and (c) the establishment of development hubs;

4. *Emphasizes* that the conclusions and recommendations of this review, by taking stock of the progress achieved to date, shall guide the efforts of all stakeholders in the coming six months to address the most urgent priorities which require immediate attention;

Conclusions

5. *Recalls* the interconnection among the three priority areas of its Strategic Framework and the need to address them in a synchronized fashion, taking into account their mutually reinforcing nature, spanning development, peace and security and human rights, including the rights of the child;

Please recycle

6. *Expresses* its appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework by the Government and civil society of the Central African Republic and by their international partners on the ground;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government to realize the short-term activities to which it committed itself through the action plan for security sector reform established in April 2008, and welcomes the agreement reached on a security sector reform strategy at the event held in Bangui on 29 October 2009;

8. *Takes note* of the continued need for financial assistance from the international community in order to implement medium- to long-term activities, as expressed to the donor community at the security sector reform event held in Bangui on 29 October 2009;

9. *Welcomes* the finalization of technical arrangements in preparation for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, despite delays incurred, but notes with concern that the political and security conditions necessary for the start of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have yet to be fully met;

10. *Notes* with concern that while the programme is fully funded, an agreement for the transparent management of the full amount of funds has yet to be finalized, and recalls the urgent need for a coherent reintegration strategy as an integral part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

11. *Stresses* the importance of considering disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as an integral part of broader security sector reform;

12. *Expresses* its appreciation to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad for the stabilizing role it plays in the north-eastern Central African Republic, and takes note with concern of the recent security incidents in that region, due to lingering underlying tensions;

13. *Expresses serious concern* about the Lord's Resistance Army's presence in the south-eastern Central African Republic, where it continues to terrorize populations and recruit child soldiers, and takes notes of the resulting fragility of the security situation;

14. *Notes with great concern* that vast numbers of refugees, in particular internally displaced persons, are still too afraid to return home and continue to live in conditions that are deplorable and precarious, especially for women and children;

15. *Welcomes* the encouraging results of the child demobilization and reintegration programme managed by the United Nations Children's Fund and funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, but notes with great concern that child recruitment by armed parties and other grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, including the killing and maiming of children, and attacks on schools, have taken place in the period under review;

16. *Welcomes* the progress realized by the Central African executive and legislative branches in creating the institutional conditions for organizing credible and transparent presidential and legislative elections, including the promulgation of the revised electoral code and the establishment of the Joint Independent Electoral Commission, and underlines the crucial importance of holding fast to the electoral calendar set by the constitution;

17. *Expresses concern* about the diverging interpretations of the constitution on the duration of the mandate of the current legislature, and stresses the importance of the constitutional court swiftly producing a final judgement on the issue;

18. *Takes note* of the need to conceive a new decentralization policy as a prerequisite to holding municipal elections in the foreseeable future;

19. *Welcomes* the establishment of the follow-up committee of the inclusive political dialogue held in Bangui from 8 to 20 December 2008, and stresses the importance of maintaining a regular meeting schedule in order to ensure the proper conduct of its mandate;

20. *Notes* that the global economic and financial crisis has hampered efforts to improve employment perspectives and the business environment, and emphasizes the need to make further efforts in that regard;

21. *Welcomes* the completion of the regional needs assessment studies ("monographies") conducted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the Western development hubs in order to identify intervention packages that will require funding, and recalls the urgent need for additional funding to finance their implementation;

22. *Welcomes* the fact that civil society is deeply involved in the follow-up to the implementation of the Strategic Framework;

23. *Stresses* the importance of civil society continuing to fully play its role as a full stakeholder in the implementation of the Strategic Framework;

24. *Takes note* of a number of weaknesses in the modalities, which, particularly as they relate to the participation of civil society, are not clearly defined, and regrets therefore the weak participation of civil society and the low flow of resources from partners to local non-governmental and civil society organizations;

Recommendations

Government of the Central African Republic

25. *Recommends* that the Government of the Central African Republic:

(a) Continue its efforts towards the full implementation of the action plan for security sector reform established in April 2008, including its provisions regarding women and children, and ensure its follow-up at the political and technical levels;

(b) Come to an agreement within the Steering Committee for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration on a joint mechanism for the transparent and predictable use of the totality of the funds made available for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;

(c) Take all necessary measures to ensure an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair and peaceful general elections within the time frame set by the constitution, and to respect the independence of the Joint Independent Electoral Commission and the outcome of the elections;

(d) Step up inter-communal dialogue in the north-eastern part of the country in order to abate the latent tensions;

(e) Take full ownership of the establishment of development hubs by activating a technical steering committee;

(f) Make all necessary efforts to ensure progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue, take steps to revitalize its follow-up committee, and engage civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the resolution of conflict and the return to stability and prosperity;

International partners

26. *Resolves* to work with the international partners to:

(a) Maintain and advocate sustained attention and support for the Central African Republic on the part of the international community, including in the areas of peacebuilding and the alleviation of the living conditions of populations in the areas most affected by conflict and poverty;

(b) Strengthen its assistance to the Government in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue;

(c) Step up efforts to mobilize resources and technical assistance and improve the disbursement of funds for the implementation of identified peacebuilding activities, including for the security sector reform action plan and the projects to be submitted for funding to the international community at the upcoming donors round table on security sector reform, the holding of general elections in 2010, governmental efforts to improve the business environment and the establishment of all the development hubs;

(d) Support national capacity-building for peacebuilding, in particular in public and civil society institutions;

(e) Support the ongoing establishment of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) to succeed the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic, with the mandate to provide, inter alia, support for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and, with the support of the United Nations country team, the implementation of projects funded through the Peacebuilding Fund;

(f) Stress the importance of integrating a gender perspective in the mandate and work of BINUCA;

Civil society

27. *Resolves* to:

(a) Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of civil society, particularly in the areas of elections, gender issues and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;

(b) Effectively engage local non-governmental organizations in the implementation of programmes and projects contained in the Strategic Framework under each of its priority areas;

(c) Support the follow-up and coordination committee for the Strategic Framework in reorganizing and strengthening civil society capacities.